

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09364 271239Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 MCE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 SSM-03 /065 W
-----003990 271454Z /45
R 271235Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7200

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASSM US, EG
SUBJECT: TELCOM INTEREST IN SALE OF PASSIVE LISTENING
- SYSTEM TO EGYPT

REF: STATE 76979

1. WE RECALL THAT TELCOM REPS DISCUSSED PASSIVE LISTENING
ELINT SYSTEM WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY LAST JULY, THOUGH
EGYPTIANS AT THAT TIME SAID NOTHING TO US ABOUT IT.
NOR HAVE EGYPTIANS DONE SO IN ENSUING MONTHS. UNLESS
DEPT WISHES US RAISE MATTER, WE THINK IT BEST NOT TO
EVINCE ANY KNOWLEDGE OR INTEREST BY INITIATING QUERY
RE EGYPTIAN MILITARY'S INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS TELCOM OFFER.

2. WHILE RECOGNIZING UNRESOLVED FUNDING PROBLEMS FACED
BY GOE ON VARIOUS DEFENSE-RELATED PURCHASES, EGYPTIAN
EW PEOPLE ARE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN TELCOM PROPOSAL.
IF EW PEOPLE CAN PERSUADE GAMASY THAT SUCH A SYSTEM
DESERVES HIGH PRIORITY, FUNDING WILL SOONER OR LATER
SOMEHOW BE FOUND FOR IT. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT GAMASY IS AT PRESENT NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE
E-1 PROJECT AND CAPABILITY, WE KNOW DMI M/G SHAWKAT IS
WORRIED ABOUT ITS LIMITED CAPABILITY. FOLLOWING SHAWKAT'S
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RECENT VISIT TO E-1 AND SFM, HE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR AND
DATT THAT GOE NEEDS SOMEHOW TO UPGRADE ITS EARLY WARNING
CAPABILITY. IN THIS CONTEXT, SHAWKAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED
URGE GAMASY TO GIVE PASSIVE LISTENING ELINT SYSTEM A HIGH
PRIORITY. (GAMASY HIMSELF TOLD US LAST SUMMER THAT
EGYPTIAN MILITARY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PASSIVE NIGHT
VISION DEVICES, BUT HAS NOT SINCE THAT TIME PURSUED THAT

MATTER WITH US.)

3. TELCOM HAS NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US SINCE LAST JULY
AND WE DO NOT KNOW IF COMPANY HAS BEEN IN CONTINUING
CONTACT WITH EGYPTIANS SINCE THAT TIME. DCM MATTHEWS
WILL BE HAPPY RECEIVE ARSLAN FIRST WEEK IN APRIL, BUT
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE SOME ADVANCE INDICATION WHETHER
OMC LIKELY LICENSE SYSTEM IF EGYPTIANS FORMALLY REQUEST IT.
AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE ARE DOING OURSELVES A
DISSERVICE IF WE ALLOW MILITARY EQUIPMENT VENDORS TO MAKE
OFFERS TO EGYPTIANS WHICH WE DO NOT INTEND TO LICENSE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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